

House File 42 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 42

BY HUNTER

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for the establishment of a school safety
2 hotline, internet site, and mobile internet application, and
3 providing penalties.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **80.48 School safety hotline,**
2 **internet site, and mobile internet application — penalty.**

3 1. For purposes of this section, "*threat to school safety*"
4 means a threat of harassment or bullying as defined in section
5 280.28, suicide or self-harm, or violence against others.

6 2. The department shall establish a statewide, toll-free
7 telephone hotline, internet site, and mobile internet
8 application for the purpose of receiving reports from the
9 public regarding threats or possible threats to school
10 safety in this state. The hotline, internet site, and
11 application shall include means for receiving anonymous
12 reports that ensure that the identity of an individual making
13 a report cannot be determined by the department or any other
14 person. The department may consult the office of the chief
15 information officer in the development of the internet site
16 and application. The department shall refer all reports
17 received through the hotline, internet site, and application
18 to appropriate school and local law enforcement personnel
19 and service providers. Such reports shall be confidential
20 and shall not be a public record subject to disclosure under
21 chapter 22.

22 3. The department shall advertise the hotline, internet
23 site, and application through the use of public service
24 announcements and other appropriate means. The department
25 shall publicize the hotline, internet site, and application in
26 all schools in this state through written materials and other
27 appropriate means.

28 4. The department shall annually publish on the
29 department's internet site information on the disposition of
30 each report received through the hotline, internet site, and
31 application. Such publication shall not include personally
32 identifying information of an individual who made a report or
33 who was the subject of a report.

34 5. In consultation with behavioral health care providers,
35 the department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A to

1 establish and operate the hotline, internet site, and internet
2 application. The rules shall include but are not limited to
3 the following:

4 *a.* Provisions that protect the identity of an individual
5 reporting information without compromising opportunities
6 for follow-up contact from school and local law enforcement
7 personnel and service providers to provide further information
8 to or obtain further information from the individual.

9 *b.* Written policies and procedures for all of the following:

10 (1) Logging reports received on the hotline, internet site,
11 and internet application.

12 (2) Verifying the authenticity and validity of a threat or
13 possible threat to student safety.

14 (3) Relaying information concerning a threat or possible
15 threat to student safety to appropriate school and local law
16 enforcement personnel and service providers.

17 (4) Connecting the hotline with other hotlines that
18 are available to receive reports of violence or for crisis
19 prevention.

20 (5) Tracking referrals to appropriate school and local
21 law enforcement personnel and service providers resulting
22 from information received on the hotline, internet site, and
23 internet application and tracking the outcome of any action
24 taken in response to the referral.

25 6. An individual who makes a report on the hotline, internet
26 site, or internet application for a purpose other than to
27 report a situation that the individual reasonably believes
28 requires prompt action in order to preserve human life or
29 property commits a simple misdemeanor.

30 Sec. 2. IMPLEMENTATION. The department shall not implement
31 a telephone hotline, internet site, and mobile internet
32 pursuant to section 80.48, as enacted by this Act, until the
33 rules required by section 80.48, subsection 5, as enacted by
34 this Act, have become effective.

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EXPLANATION

1 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
2 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

3 This bill requires the department of public safety to
4 establish a statewide, toll-free telephone hotline, internet
5 site, and mobile internet application for the purpose
6 of receiving reports from the public regarding threats
7 or possible threats to school safety in this state. The
8 hotline, internet site, and application must include means
9 for receiving anonymous reports that ensure that the identity
10 of an individual making a report cannot be determined by the
11 department or any other person. The department is required
12 to refer all reports received through the hotline, internet
13 site, and application to appropriate school and local law
14 enforcement personnel and service providers. Such reports
15 shall be confidential.

16 The bill requires the department to advertise the hotline,
17 internet site, and application through the use of public
18 service announcements and other appropriate means and publicize
19 the hotline, internet site, and application in all schools in
20 this state through written materials and other appropriate
21 means.

22 The bill requires the department to annually publish on the
23 department's internet site information on the disposition of
24 each report received through the hotline, internet site, and
25 application. Such publication shall not include personally
26 identifying information.

27 The bill requires the department, in consultation with
28 behavioral health care providers, to adopt rules to establish
29 and operate the hotline, internet site, and internet
30 application. The bill provides minimum required subjects for
31 the rules. The bill prohibits the department from implementing
32 a telephone hotline, internet site, and mobile internet until
33 the rules have become effective.

34 The bill provides that an individual who makes a report
35 on the hotline, internet site, or internet application for a

1 purpose other than to report a situation that the individual
2 reasonably believes requires prompt action in order to preserve
3 human life or property commits a simple misdemeanor. A simple
4 misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more than 30
5 days or a fine of at least \$105 but not more than \$855 or by
6 both.